

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claims 1, 10, and 19 are amended. Claim 6 is canceled without prejudice. New claim 21 is added. Claims 1-5 and 7-21 are pending in this application.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2-10, and 12-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,044,471 to Colvin (hereinafter "Colvin"). Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice, thereby rendering the rejection of claim 6 moot. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 2-5, 7-10, and 12-19 are not anticipated by Colvin.

Colvin is directed to a method and apparatus for securing software to reduce unauthorized use (see, title). As discussed in Colvin, each copy or group of copies of software is associated with a password (see, col. 3, lines 59-63). During the initial use or installation of the software on a computer, the end user must contact a password administrator to obtain the appropriate authorization code or password (see, col. 4, lines 33-39). The password administrator obtains registration information from the end user and provides an appropriate password or authorization code to the software (see, col. 4, lines 39-42). The password administrator stores the registration information to be used for various purposes to reduce unauthorized use of software (see, col. 4, line 66 to col. 5, line 2). The password or authorization code is communicated

to the software to make the software operational on the end user's computer (see, col. 6, lines 38-40).

In contrast, amended claim 1 recites:

A method, implemented in a registration authority, comprising:
receiving a request, from a requestor, for a password to be used
by a device when communicating with the registration authority
operating as a protocol gateway between the device and a certificate
authority;
authenticating the requestor;
generating the password;
adding the password to a password table; and
returning the password to the requestor for use by the device.

Applicant respectfully submits that the use of passwords as described in Colvin does not disclose the method of amended claim 1.

The method of amended claim 1 is implemented in a registration authority operating as a protocol gateway between a device (from which the request for the password is received) and a certificate authority. No such registration authority is discussed in Colvin. As discussed above, Colvin discusses a password administrator, which may also be the manufacturer or developer of the software (see, col. 4, lines 10-12). As discussed above, the password administrator provides an appropriate password to make the software operational on the end user's computer. Nowhere is there any discussion or mention in Colvin of the password administrator operating as a protocol gateway between a device (from which the request for the password is received) and a certificate authority as recited in amended claim 1. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

Given that claims 2-5 and 7-9 depend from amended claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-5 and 7-9 are likewise allowable over Colvin for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to amended claim 1.

With respect to amended claims 10 and 19, Applicant respectfully submits that, analogous to the discussion above regarding amended claim 1, Colvin does not disclose a registration authority operating as a protocol gateway between a device (from which the request for the password is received) and a certificate authority as recited in amended claims 10 and 19. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 10 and 19 are allowable over the cited references.

Given that claims 12-18 depend from amended claim 10, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-18 are likewise allowable over Colvin for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to amended claim 10.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2, 11, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Colvin. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 11, and 20 are not obvious over Colvin.

With respect to claim 2, claim 2 depends from amended claim 1 and Applicant respectfully submits that claim 2 is allowable over Colvin at least because of its dependency on amended claim 1.

With respect to claim 11, claim 11 depends from amended claim 10 and Applicant respectfully submits that claim 11 is allowable over Colvin at least because of its dependency on amended claim 10.

With respect to claim 20, claim 20 depends from amended claim 19 and Applicant respectfully submits that claim 20 is allowable over Colvin at least because of its dependency on amended claim 19.

Applicant respectfully requests that the §103 rejections be withdrawn.

New Claims

New claim 21 has been added.

With respect to new claim 21, new claim 21 depends from amended claim 1 and Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 21 is allowable over the cited references at least because of its dependency on amended claim 1. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references do not disclose or suggest a method as recited in claim 1, further comprising: receiving the password as part of a subsequent request from the device, and comparing the received password to the password in the password table to verify that the subsequent request actually came from the device as recited in new claim 21. For at least these reasons Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 21 is allowable over the cited references.

Conclusion

Claims 1-5 and 7-21 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application.

Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

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